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OCT 17 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Secretary of Defense  
 SUBJECT: Crusade for Freedom

1. The Crusade for Freedom is a national fund-raising campaign which has been held for three successive years on behalf of Radio Free Europe and the National Committee for a Free Europe. Its goal this year is \$10,000,000.
2. The National Committee for a Free Europe is a private citizens' organization which employs the skills of exiles in this country and abroad to lend hope and encouragement, and in some instances actual physical assistance, to their fellow countrymen behind the Iron Curtain. Among the activities of the National Committee for a Free Europe is a university for escapees and defectors which is situated at Strasbourg in France.
3. Its chief activity, however, is Radio Free Europe which broadcasts to all satellite areas from Munich. Radio Free Europe is run by exiles and its programs, whether to Czechoslovakia, Poland or elsewhere, are conducted in such a manner that they constitute the voice of free Czechoslovakia, the voice of free Poland etc. They consist of news and commentary, music, drama and entertainment on virtually an around-the-clock basis. We here consider Radio Free Europe to be about the hardest hitting and most effective weapon we have for reaching people in the satellite areas directly. Most defectors have agreed with us.
4. In order to raise substantial funds for the work of the National Committee for a Free Europe, the American Heritage Foundation, of which Henry Ford II is Chairman of the Board and D'Arcy Brophy President, is taking on the Crusade campaign this year. Their first effort was the dinner at the White House last month which you attended. The next effort is the conference on October 20th and 21st which will bring together approximately 440 people representing 250 companies and corporations, and 160 national organizations, including 36 labor unions.

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The purpose of these conferences is to engender the widest possible support for and participation in the fund-raising campaign, and to get the facts on the cold war and the satellite countries to the campaign leaders before they begin to work.

5. This conference consists of three separate meetings:

A briefing in the Pentagon on October 20 for heads of national organizations;

A briefing at the Pentagon on October 21 for the executives of 250 major companies; and

A dinner meeting on October 21 in the Williamsburg Room of the Mayflower Hotel for both groups.

6. The briefing meeting at which you and Mr. Keyes are participating will begin with an introduction by Henry Ford II. He will then call upon you and Mr. Keyes (you on October 21, Mr. Keyes on October 20) to welcome the guests and make a few preliminary remarks. I am asked by D'Arcy Brehpy to relay to you his suggestion that you stress in your preliminary remarks the importance of private citizen participation in the present struggle against the totalitarian system.

7. Mr. Ford will then introduce me and I will brief the audience for about 20 minutes on the world situation with particular emphasis on the iron curtain countries.

8. I understand that I am expected to meet you at your office at 2:30 on October 21st but that on October 20th I am expected to go directly to the Auditorium, #5A-1070.

SIGNED

ALLEN W. DUKES

16 Oct 53

Distribution:

Orig ~~2~~ - Addressee

1 cc - DCI ✓

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P.S. CIA's interest in the Crusade and Radio Free Europe is entirely covert and should not be mentioned. My appearance at the two briefings is solely as Director of Central Intelligence to give a factual picture of conditions behind the Iron Curtain.

A.W.D.

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